



NEWS RELEASE

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Jefferson County Domestic Violence Intake Center Receives National Award for Innovative Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Jefferson County (Ky.) Domestic Violence Intake Center (DVIC) has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor top county government programs that are innovative and enhance services for their residents.

NACo recognized the county's DVIC in the category of Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

The DVIC is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist victims of domestic violence. The center is staffed by the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk and the Jefferson County Attorney's Office. It is located in the Louis D. Brandeis Hall of Justice, at 600 W. Jefferson St. in downtown Louisville.

The DVIC consolidated locations and expanded its services in 2009 in an effort to make it easier for victims to receive emergency protection. In 2010, the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk launched e-EPO, an innovative electronic system designed to expedite the issuance of domestic violence emergency protection orders (EPOs). The DVIC provides service to approximately 5,000 victims per year.

The center takes both civil EPOs and criminal complaints. Domestic violence can occur to men, women, children and the elderly. Domestic violence knows no economic or educational boundaries and is defined in many ways, not just by extreme violence. Threatening and controlling behavior, violence toward pets and destruction of property can all be considered forms of domestic violence.

"On behalf of the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk and our judicial partners, we are pleased that the Jefferson County DVIC has received this NACo award," said David L. Nicholson, Jefferson County Circuit Court Clerk. "Domestic violence should never happen to anyone, but unfortunately it does, and the DVIC is an important resource to help these victims and their families."

NACo President Linda Langston, Supervisor, Linn County, Iowa, said, "The National Association of Counties applauds county governments like Jefferson County (Ky.) that are finding new and better ways to serve their constituents. The Achievement Awards recognize counties' outstanding efforts to be more effective and more responsive to the diverse needs of communities across the country."

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The [National Association of Counties](http://www.naco.org) (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo assists America's 3,069 counties in pursuing excellence in public service to produce healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient counties. NACo promotes sound public policies, fosters county solutions and innovation, promotes intergovernmental and public-private collaboration and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. More information at: www.naco.org.

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